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WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 19, 1900.*

Replying to yours of yesterday under circumstances Bureau will not undertake fumigation of freight.

WYMAN.

KINYOUN, *San Francisco, Cal.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 19, 1900.*

Forward copies of the proceedings of the court in the habeas corpus case and in the case enjoining the local board of health from quarantining infected area; also, copies of all the proceedings relating to your citation for contempt. Wire, if you can, what are the specific findings or orders of the court which your acts are said to be possibly in contempt of. The ground for your citation is not clear to Bureau unless inspection service is by inference in violation of the findings of the court; also, proceedings in case where court forbid removal of Chinese to detention camp.

WYMAN.

KINYOUN, *San Francisco, Cal.*

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF PLAGUE.—INTERSTATE INSPECTION.

Inspection at Yuma, Ariz.

YUMA, ARIZ., *June 7, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended June 7, 1900: Inspection Southern Pacific Railway passengers, 65; inspection of persons from San Francisco, 14; inspection of Asiatics, 3.

Have found no cases of suspicious illness or of plague. I report the details of my work to Dr. Kinyoun daily.

Respectfully,

W. H. MITCHELL,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Inspection at Needles, Cal.

NEEDLES, CAL., *June 9, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following statement of work for the week ended June 8, 1900: Number of Chinese inspected, 5; passed, 5; rejected, none. Number of Japanese inspected, 19; passed, 19; rejected, none. Number of passengers other than Asiatics inspected, 560; passed, 560; rejected, none. One dead Japanese was shipped to this point and I made a personal examination of the corpse. Finding that death was due to accident, the body was turned over to the coroner of this county and a verdict was rendered in accordance with the facts.

Having heard of the illness of a native of Japan near Barstow, I went to that point but found that if any such case existed, it was probably at Mojave, or beyond the limit of my transportation. I therefore returned, not missing the inspection of any east-bound train. Referring again to the Indians here, I find that several additional deaths have recently occurred. I have, as yet, been unable to arrive at the cause. They appear to be, however, very sudden, and to occur in the person of

young, strong, and previously healthy subjects. The difficulty in procuring sufficient data to make more exact reports of this class of cases, was referred to in my former report. I will, nevertheless, spare no effort to get at the bottom facts in the matter. From information received, apparently authentic, I learn that in 1 case at least, the subject died, after an illness of not more than four days, and as far as I could understand my informant, there was swelling in the glands of the axilla and groin, with softening and suppuration, as well as swelling of other glands of the body. Not wishing to cause any undue excitement about cases which may be purely syphilitic in origin, I have had to be guarded in my inquiries, and particularly so, in view of the difficulty in getting information, because of Indian secretiveness and superstition.

Respectfully,

J. F. T. JENKINS,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Inspection of Chinatown in Los Angeles, Cal.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 11, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, in compliance with your telegram of the 10th instant, I have just concluded, with Health Officer Powers of Los Angeles, what was, for all practical purposes, a house to-house inspection of that portion of this city known as Chinatown. The estimated population of this latter district is 5,000. I called upon the director of the census for more accurate figures, but failed to get any information from him. The floating population of Chinatown is estimated at 1,000 daily. In the area referred to there are a large number of resorts either kept or frequented by white persons of the lowest order, and therefore an inspection of Chinatown naturally included an inspection of these places and their inmates. Chinatown, roughly speaking, covers an area of six 700-foot city blocks. It receives the surface drainage of the business portion of Los Angeles, and is situated, for the most part, on an average level of 20 feet below the latter.

There are no sewers in this part of town and the sewage is either piped off to neighboring mains or else is let into cesspools. The houses are in no instances above 2 stories in height and 6 per cent of them are built of brick, fairly well constructed, and kept in a fair degree of cleanliness. The remaining 40 per cent are constructed of wood and are built flat upon the ground with no air space for ventilation underneath. All of these are in an exceedingly filthy condition. Fortunately there are a number of fair sized back yards in every block which gives the sunlight fair play and which prevents, to a certain extent, the overcrowding of men and animals. None of the streets are paved and only about 20 per cent of the sidewalks are cemented. The remainder of the sidewalks are covered with planks which have been in use for a great many years and are now old and rotten, and filth underneath these must be enormous. I could find no evidence of the existence of any cases of plague here either in the past or at the present time. In the year 1899 there were 39 deaths among the Chinese in Los Angeles. From January 1, to the present date there have been 22 deaths among them. Of the latter number 13 were from tuberculosis, 1 from Bright's disease, 1 by violence, 1 suicide, 1 typhoid fever, 2 heart disease, 1 gastritis, 1 sclerosis of the liver, and 1 from pleurisy. The deaths for the present year were as follows: January 3, 2 tuberculosis; February 3, 2 tuberculosis; March 4, 1 tuberculosis; May 7, 4 tuberculosis; June to date, 3, 2 tuberculosis. Of the 6 people in Chinatown, I saw 4 cases of tuber-

culosis in the last stage and 2 cases less far advanced and 1 case of specific hemiplegia.

To summarize, the points in favor of the Chinatown of Los Angeles are, first, the entire absence of cellars under the houses; second, the presence of abundant air space among the back yards; third, the small percentage of overcrowding. The points against Chinatown are, first, the absence of artificial drainage; second, the perfectly flat surface on which the town is built; third, the lack of paved sidewalks and streets; fourth, the large number of old wooden structures built flat on the ground; fifth, the presence of a large area of old wooden sidewalks; sixth, the presence everywhere of a large number of animals, particularly cats.

The conditions above mentioned have been protested against a great number of times, but without avail, by Health Officer Powers, who is an exceptionally earnest and capable sanitarian. While I believe Chinatown to-day to be in a very bad condition from a sanitary standpoint, I find considerable improvement during the past three months owing to Dr. Powers's untiring energy and the support which he has received at the hands of the board of health of this city. We found that three Chinamen have arrived in the past thirty days from the Chinatown of San Francisco. I personally examined 1 of these and found him to be in good health. The other 2, however, we were unable to find.

I leave to-morrow for San Francisco, via Fresno and Merced.

Respectfully,

L. E. COFER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex., June 9, 1900.—I have the honor to submit the following summary of work at this station for the week ended June 9, 1900: Inspection Mexican Central Railroad passengers, 213; inspection Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad passengers, 20; inspection of immigrants and their families, 23; disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., of immigrants, 10; disinfection soiled linen, Pullman, from Mexico, 313; disinfection soiled linen imported for laundry, 244; vaccinations, 4.

Respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Laredo, Tex., June 13, 1900.—I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended June 9, 1900: Persons on Mexican National Railroad inspected and passed, 366; immigrants inspected and entered, 17; immigrants vaccinated, 8; immigrants refused entry, 2. June 4, refused entry to 1 Italian, 6 days out from Vera Cruz, Mexico; no baggage. June 9, refused entry to 5 persons from Tuxpan via Tampico; destination Louisiana; no baggage.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Smallpox situation in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 11, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that since my last letter to you relative to the smallpox situation, dated May 29, 1900, 4 new cases have been reported and 2 have been discharged from the hospital, cured.